

# PARISH Magazine



April / May 2024

Minimum donation £1.00



St George's Church

The Heart of Christ  The Heart of Waddon



*‘Who is my neighbour?’*

*Meet some of our neighbours:*

**Crisis, Croydon Drop In, The Salvation Army, Croydon Relief in Need,  
New Life Croydon, Fairfield SNT, The Whitgift Almshouses**  
*and find out about our church’s surprising link with ‘David Copperfield’!*

# Regular service times

## Croydon Minster

Morning Prayer, Monday – Friday 8.30am

### Sunday

8am Said Eucharist

10am Sung Eucharist

5.30pm Evensong (Choral Evensong in term time)

### Monday

11am Said Eucharist

### Tuesday

11am Said Eucharist

5.30pm Choral Evensong sung by the Boys' Choir (term time only)

### Wednesday

11am Said Eucharist

5.30pm Choral Evensong sung by the Girls' Choir (term time only)

### Friday

11am Said Eucharist

## St George's

### Sunday

10am Eucharist

### Thursday

10.30am Eucharist

# Diary dates

## Croydon Minster

### April

Mon	01	Easter Monday Bank Holiday
Sat	06	Church Clear Up morning, 10am
Tue	16	Choral Evensong services resume
Fri	19	Lunchtime Recitals resume ( <i>see poster on following page</i> )
Sun	28	Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Mon	29	Choral Evensong sung by Old Palace School Chapel Choir, 5.30pm

### May

Fri	03	Archbishop Tenison's School Founder's Day Service, 12 noon; <i>no Lunchtime Recital</i>
Sat	04	Church Clear Up morning, 10am
Sun	12	Separated Child Foundation packing session, 11.30am
Sun	26	Confirmation Service at St George's Church, 5pm



## Church Clear Up

### Would you like to help?

We have a cleaning team that meets once a month on a Saturday morning to keep the church and grounds looking their best. If you have an hour or so to come and join us, we'd love to see you. We meet at 10am and have coffee at the end.

Our next dates will be **Saturday 6 April** and **Saturday 4 May**.

No need to sign up, but if you'd like more information, please contact Dave Young ([davesyoung.dy@googlemail.com](mailto:davesyoung.dy@googlemail.com))



2024

# LUNCHTIME RECITALS

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Croydon  
**Minster**

19 APRIL  
PEYAO SHAN, PIANO

26 APRIL  
KIRSTY O'NEILL, SOPRANO

3 MAY  
NO RECITAL

10 MAY  
ANTOINE PICHON, PIANO

17 MAY  
SUTTON HIGH SCHOOL

24 MAY  
OLD PALACE OF  
JOHN WHITGIFT SCHOOL

31 MAY  
SARAH PARKES BOWEN, FLUTE  
& PIANO RECITAL

7 JUNE  
MARK ZANG, ORGAN

14 JUNE  
CROYDON HIGH SCHOOL

21 JUNE  
TERESA FERREIRA, VIOLA

28 JUNE  
BARNABY SILVERSTONE, ORGAN

5 JULY  
KEZIA ROBSON, SOPRANO &  
HANZHI ZHANG, PIANO

# A welcome from the Editor

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We are all familiar with the Bible verse 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself' (Leviticus 19:18). In planning this edition of the magazine, Fr Andrew and I explored the theme of 'Neighbours'; who is my neighbour, what does it mean to be a good neighbour, and what does that look like in our local area?

Fr Alan reflects on the question 'Who is our neighbour?' in the context of our culturally diverse society. He describes the joy of getting to know people whose faith and culture may be very different from his own, in the course of his work as Interfaith Officer for the Bishop of Croydon. Susan Williams looks at the same question through the lens of her work as a volunteer with Crisis, and creates vivid pen-portraits of people who turn to Crisis for support; the characters are fictitious, but their stories and circumstances are only too real.

It has been a great pleasure to welcome several guest contributors to this edition of the magazine to tell us about the many wonderful initiatives in our area to support those in need.

Gordon Knott, CEO of Croydon Drop In, describes CDI's commitment to encourage children, young people and families to develop their full potential by providing confidential counselling, advice, advocacy and health outreach programmes. As the number of referrals for counselling services continues to rise, CDI is there to listen to young people and support them to find solutions to their challenges: 'You talk, we listen'.

Sara Chagas from Croydon Citadel writes about the mission of The Salvation Army to support those in need to flourish to their full potential. Through projects such as 'The Well' (a support programme for vulnerable homeless adults in the Croydon area), weekly English classes offered to those in need of help with language skills, including asylum seekers and refugees, and the Employment

Plus programme offering tailored support to those seeking work, The Salvation Army strives to help each person in need to become the person that God intended them to be.

Bec Yusuf, Community Development Officer for Croydon Almshouse Charities, outlines the work of Croydon Relief in Need, which was established to provide financial assistance for residents of the London Borough of Croydon who are in need for reasons such as poverty, hardship, age or disability.

Mark Rossell is an elder at New Life Croydon, a thriving Pentecostal church with over 1200 members. Inspired by the Bible verse 'I have many people in this city' (Acts 18:10), New Life reaches out to the people of Croydon in many ways, providing activities and programmes for pre-schoolers, young people and retired people, as well as professional support for those in debt, community improvement projects, and 'Transform Croydon' prayer meetings which draw together Christians from the wider church in Croydon to pray for the needs of our borough.

Finally, Police Sergeant Phil Sheehan of the Fairfield Safer Neighbourhood Team explains how the SNT works with representatives of the local community, including residents, community volunteers and local businesses, to identify local community safety concerns and issues for the team to focus on.

This edition also takes a look at some of the history of our church and the neighbouring area. Elaine Cooper

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*Croydon Church from the bleaching grounds, 1822. From c.1818, the nearby palace of the Archbishops of Canterbury was used as a cloth printing factory, and its gardens as calico printing grounds.*

*(Sketch reproduced on a postcard courtesy of Croydon Public Libraries)*



has a wonderful collection of postcards and engravings illustrating the history of Croydon Parish Church and Wandle Park over the past 200 years; sadly there isn't space to include them all, but two of my favourites are a pencil sketch by J. T. Allen showing the church in 1822 and a photograph showing the war memorial outside the west door. The memorial was moved to its present site in 1957 following road widening works on Church Road.



David Bulbeck explores the history of the Whitgift Almshouses and the legacy of Archbishop John Whitgift, while David Morgan uncovers an intriguing link between Croydon Parish Church and one of Charles Dickens' best-loved novels. What was the significance of the 'white gift' presented to pupils of Whitgift School on Founder's Day in years gone by? Who was Hablot Browne, and what brought him to the old Croydon Parish Church in the 1840s? Read these articles to find out more.

Finally, Tiffany's 'Getting to know...' column tells us more about a very familiar face to many of us: Rodney Vaughn, who has taken on many roles in the course of 30 years of devoted service to the life of Croydon Parish Church /Croydon Minster. Rodney is known for offering a friendly welcome to all, and particularly for the practical and emotional support that he has given to people who have come to the UK for the first time; a true friend and neighbour to so many people in need.

My thanks go to everyone who has contributed to this edition of the magazine. As always, if anyone has any suggestions for future themes or articles, please get in touch. I'd love to hear from you.

*Liz*

# Who is our neighbour?

*Fr Alan*

.....  
Jesus was once asked a question by an expert in the Law who was trying to test him out about how to inherit eternal life. Jesus replies by quoting from the book of Deuteronomy:

‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength’ ( Deut. 6:5)

which is often known as the greatest commandment. He then adds another quotation from Leviticus: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself’ (Lev.19:18).

So, who then is our neighbour? Jesus goes on to tell one of the most well-known parables in the Gospels, the parable of the Good Samaritan, in which the good neighbour to the person in need in the story turns out to be not a holy man (a priest) or an expert in the law (a Levite), but a Samaritan, i.e. someone who was hated by the people of Israel at the time and who worshipped a different God.

This parable then speaks very powerfully to us in the Church in this multi-faith and multicultural age about who is our neighbour, when the people who live among us or the people we encounter in our daily lives are often people from other faith backgrounds or none and can be very different in culture and outlook from ourselves.

Croydon is the most culturally diverse borough in London with a wide range of different ethnic and religious groups living and working here. As part of my work as Interfaith Officer for the Bishop of Croydon, I spend a lot of time visiting and engaging with people whose faith and culture is very different from mine. I love the challenge this brings and the joy of meeting with and getting to know my neighbours from across the borough.



One of the ways in which we often meet is through the sharing of food together, which is an important way of growing in fellowship and understanding with each other and learning to be good neighbours to each other.

At this time of the year, as we Christians are following our Lenten journey to the foot of the Cross with Holy Week about to begin, our sisters and brothers from the Muslim community are celebrating the Holy Month of Ramadan, which is also a period of prayer and fasting to draw closer to God. I often get invited to iftar meals at this time of the year at various mosques and in people's homes, as they break the fast together as a family at the end of each day of Ramadan. It is an enormous privilege to share in these intimate occasions and to learn more of what Ramadan means to our Muslim neighbours and how we can grow in greater understanding and respect between the communities.

Much of the Interfaith work that is done throughout Croydon is about how we can become better neighbours and help those in need in the communities around us. We at Croydon Minster seek to be good neighbours to those around us who live and work in this area and exercise the love of Christ to those in need, whether through supporting local food banks, helping to feed the homeless, supporting asylum seekers through the Separated Child Project or in many other ways.

In an urban environment such as Croydon, people can often live isolated lives and not know the people around them who are their neighbours. I pray that each one of us would try to get to know our neighbours better, especially those who are lonely, and seek to be a good neighbour to all we come across in our daily lives, even though they may be very different to us, as the example of the Good Samaritan in this great parable of Jesus teaches us.

Every Blessing,

Fr Alan

# Who is my neighbour?

## Crisis... members' perspectives\*

Susan Williams

.....



**'For just as you did it for one of the least of these, you did it for me.'**

**Matthew 25:40**

**My name is Sammi.** I'm 32. I grew up with my mum, but she threw me out when I was 15 when her new boyfriend moved in. I've no idea who my dad is, and I don't think mum knows either. I lived in a children's home for a few years but I hated it so I ran away. I met up with Joe and we lived together for a while but things started to get messy. First drink, then drugs. Then the violence started. One night he trashed the flat, then turned on me. I knew I had to get away, but I had nowhere to go. Ended up on the streets. I was referred to Crisis by the StreetLink outreach worker who came to find me. They were really kind. Gave me a hot drink, let me have a shower, and found me some new underwear and clothes. They helped me find a room in a shared house with some other girls. When I was younger I used to harm myself, you can still see the scars on my arms, but I feel much happier now. Me and the girls have a laugh, but when I close the door to my room I feel safe for the first time in years.

**My name is Sasha.** I'm 42 and from Ukraine. I was a teacher there before I fled the war. My wife and children are still there and every day I am anxious for them. When I arrived I had nowhere to live so I slept in the park. I discovered Crisis, and they changed my life. With the aid of a translator, they helped me to file a claim for asylum at the Home Office and I was found temporary accommodation. Back on the streets, I again turned to Crisis. They help with the process of

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*\*All characters and stories are totally fictitious, but quite typical.*

registering as homeless, opening a bank account, making a claim for benefits, finding rented accommodation, and learning English. It's a slow process, but Crisis is with me every step of the way. Hopefully in the future I can find a job and rebuild the life I had in Ukraine. My wish is that I can save money for my family to travel so we can be reunited.

**My name is Steve.** I'm 56. Life started well. Son of a civil servant and a nurse, I had a happy childhood. I married, had a beautiful baby girl, and became a cab driver. Fast forward 30 years and things fell apart. My dad died of cancer, then my girl and her little kiddies died in an accident. Shortly after, my mum, who couldn't cope with the grief, died of heart failure. I started to drink. I got drunk most days. I got done for drink driving and lost my licence. With no income, I couldn't pay the mortgage. Eventually the wife lost patience and left. I'd lost my family, my home, my livelihood and my self-respect. I slept in whatever doorway I collapsed into. A bloke in the park suggested I go to Crisis. It took a lot of courage to ask for help, but I am glad I did. After a hot shower and some clean clothes I told them my story and was registered as a member. They gave me a list of places I could get hot food. I already knew about Nightwatch, but there were other places too, like churches. Crisis helped me with all sorts of things like finding a place to live, registering for benefits, budgeting, anger management and mental health. I'm also seeking help for my addiction through Change Grow Live. The best bit is the art classes. I get completely engrossed in moulding clay. I can forget what I've been through, and concentrate on where I'm going, and how far I've come.

**My name is Soban.** I'm 24. I came to escape not only the horror of war and famine in my country, Afghanistan, but it is dangerous for me there because I am gay. I came in a small boat, having trekked across Europe, mainly on foot. I thought I would be welcome, but I soon learnt that I could not claim anything as I had come unofficially. I had nothing but the clothes on my back, and could not speak English. I felt filthy and exhausted. I kept a low profile and slept rough. A

man I met took me to Crisis. They gave me some clean clothes and let me have a shower, but they couldn't help me. They referred me to the local refugee Day Centre who can help me with a claim for asylum, but it takes forever. Without access to funds I cannot support myself. I cannot go home as I risk being arrested. I continue to sleep in the park and rely on the generosity of strangers. I am so unhappy. Sometimes I pull the blanket over my head and hope I don't wake up.

## Croydon Drop In

*Gordon Knott, CEO, Croydon Drop In*



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There is a promise we make to the young people and families with whom we work and it is that if we find ourselves unable to help then we will make sure we find someone who can.

The truth is that none of us can successfully work alone or even enjoy working alone given the context of our working environment. We are social beings and we continue to be engaged in a collective effort, more so than ever in the ongoing climate of uncertainty and increasing everyday expense.



For Croydon Drop In this means no-one is exempt from our 'supply chain' and this will include everyone who contributes anything to help us successfully offer our services at the numerous points of delivery either from our buildings or from our Talkbus which is out and about across the Borough.

As others will recognise, we are still living with post-Covid consequences and specifically this has meant a 242% increase in the number of referrals we have received for our counselling services. We have seen a significant rise in the number of young people who come through our front doors with issues around autism, sleeping difficulties continue to rise and the impact of the death of Elianne Andam has resonated very deeply.

Our response has been to strengthen our existing offers, to actively seek more resources and partnerships and to be smarter in using the resources we do have. For example, we have invested reserves to increase our workforce this year, have invested in a new Talkbus, established a parent/carer Helpline and relaunched our website. We have refreshed all our publicity materials and, as you will have seen when visiting the Minster, have painted our building an optimistic colour!



Also from our reserves, we commissioned the making of a film, 'A Cronx Tale', which is an unapologetically hard-hitting 18-minute animation designed to be shown to Year 6s and above which advises young people to look carefully at their options and choose a different path to getting involved with gangs and crime. We are currently seeking funds to enable us to take the film and accompanying workshop into Croydon's schools and youth settings.

As we are all members of a community, our staff are not immune to the increases in pressure either, so the welfare of our workforce continues to be paramount as

we all know that if we are not feeling supported and confident in our own abilities, then our influence will be diminished.

After a lengthy contemplation I have decided to step down at the end of August from the CEO role as I truly believe the time is right for a new and different energy to help lead the charity and I encourage my colleagues to continue to work with equal amounts of courage and curiosity.

In the meantime, can I offer my sincerest thanks to all our neighbours, allies, workforce, the Minster community and our benefactors, and to the community who continue to place their trust in our abilities, this remains an utter privilege.

To find out more, please see [www.croydondropin.org.uk](http://www.croydondropin.org.uk)

## Parish Magazine Committee

Magazine Editor: Liz Watkins, 07973 172807

Commissioning: Fr Andrew and Liz Watkins

Liaison with advertisers: Deborah Miller

Proofreading: Alice Bishop

**Deadline for the June / July 2024 issue TBC;  
please see the weekly Minster Bulletin for more information.**

Please email contributions to [magazine@croydonminster.org](mailto:magazine@croydonminster.org)

**Please note:** The views in the articles of the magazine reflect the opinions of the writers and not necessarily those of the editorial board.

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# 'Life in all its fullness'

*Sara Chagas, Croydon Citadel*



.....

What a privilege for The Salvation Army to be your neighbour! We have not been here nearly as long as you have (we arrived in 1869), but we have been at our present location since 1887, so we have a long history together in this neighbourhood.

I am sure you will agree that it has changed tremendously over this period and that the aspirations, challenges and urgent needs of Croydonians of the 19th century are certainly very different to those that present themselves today.

However, the mission of the church hasn't changed. The Salvation Army continues to base its message on the Bible, to minister motivated by the love of God, and its mission is still to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in his name without discrimination. However, the context and the reality around us has changed, and this has called for different ways of working and focus.

Our congregation reflects the multicultural community we are located in, and we have services and activities for all age-groups. Like most churches we hold Bible studies, prayer meetings and discipleship classes, and we enjoy our music – be it by our brass band or our gospel choir, children's groups or worship band. We believe that our faith also implies service, and we seek to express our faith in practical ways in the local community through our outreach programmes that are intentional in meeting people where they are and offering support.

'The Well' is one such means - it is one of the activities that are quite well-known in the area and recently received an award from the London Faith and Belief Forum. 'The Well' focuses on vulnerable homeless adults in the Croydon area.

They come in the morning for tea and coffee and then have lunch with us, and we provide them with basic clothing and toiletries if needed. We also seek to engage in conversation with them to find out how we can support them, and local agencies partner with us to offer opportunities for change.

Apart from this population we also have many people in Croydon that need support with basic supplies. The Salvation Army does not run a foodbank, but receives referrals from the DWP, Croydon Social Services, GPs, schools, etc., with requests to help those who need support. We normally help with an emergency food parcel, but also offer toiletries, cleaning materials and clothes if requested. This operates three days a week and over the last year has provided over 3200 food parcels to families and single people in Croydon. All the supplies given out by The Salvation Army here are donated locally by supermarkets, churches, schools, etc., and we are very grateful to our Croydon 'neighbours' who support us in this way.

All of us who live in Croydon are aware of the challenges we face having the Home Office in our neighbourhood and the increase in the number of asylum seekers and refugees that have come to this area over recent years. To help these people as they come to terms with a new country, culture and language, The Salvation Army works in partnership with CALAT (Croydon Adult Learning and Training) to provide weekly English classes for men and women that require language skills. The course is open to anybody, and we feel privileged to see such a variety of people from countries such as Spain, El Salvador, Iran, Afghanistan, Portugal, Sri Lanka, Albania, Ukraine and many others come through our doors – an excellent opportunity to make them feel welcome! Through our Employment Plus programme we are also able to offer them and others seeking employment tailored support to help them become job ready. Our aim is to help job seekers to get a job and stay in work, so we offer help with forms and basic IT courses, as well as support to produce CVs, preparation for job interviews, etc.



Although we recognise that in some situations in life people may need a hand-out, our main objective is to give the person a hand-up, help them to understand and flourish to their full potential and to be the person God intended them to be, guiding them towards 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10), which is really God's project for all of us.

And finally, a word of thanks to you all – our neighbours at the Minster, for all that you do for this community, as together we continue to seek to promote God's Kingdom in Croydon.

God bless you!

*Croydon's Salvation Army musicians performing at Croydon Minster's 10th birthday celebrations, 2021*





# Croydon Relief in Need

## Improving lives of those living in Croydon

*Bec Yusuf, Community Development Officer, Croydon Almshouse Charities*

.....  
Croydon Relief in Need (CRiN), whose funds derive from CAC (Croydon Almshouse Charities), was established to provide financial assistance for people who are in need by reason of poverty or hardship, age, disability, or other disadvantage, and who are resident in the London Borough of Croydon.

CRiN has supported thousands of people by funding projects and services that support residents with challenges including food poverty, cost of living rises,

people living with dementia, loneliness, offering opportunities for young people, sustainability, community cooking groups and domestic abuse.

Our Community Development Officer Bec Yusuf, who grew up in Croydon and went to school in the '80s and '90s near Thornton Heath, meets up with organisations thinking about bidding to deliver a project or service. The organisation can then submit a bid and the Engaging Communities Committee, that is made up of the Board, has the tough task of deciding who should receive the funds.

Each year CRiN distributes over £200K but we usually get bids that are requesting, collectively, nearer £600K. CRiN would love to be able to fund every organisation that bids but we have to go with those that stand out as impacting the most on residents living in Croydon.

Some of the ways we learn about those we fund are visiting projects, chatting with those involved and hearing from residents through the organisation that has supported them.

South West London Law Centre (SWLLC) received funding that contributed towards a part-time welfare benefits worker. One of those who benefited shared the following:

'I'd tried to apply for Universal Credit many times and asked many people for help but I couldn't get through the whole form. I just couldn't do it. I was going round and round and no one was able to help me. Some people were saying to me that I'm not eligible; some were saying I was eligible. It was so difficult, especially when you know you can't pay the rent. It was a nightmare.

When [SWLLC] helped me with my application I felt I'd found the solution to my problem. She was really, really helpful and very kind. I've just received the first payment. It mostly goes on my rent and I'm slowly getting there.

It's such a relief to have the extra money coming in – it will make a big difference to me and my children.'

CRiN is committed to helping people improve their lives so they can thrive, and we continue to fund and work with organisations who embolden that ambition.

If you would like to know a bit more about Croydon Relief in Need or connect organisations who could apply, then please visit

<http://www.croydonalmshouses.org.uk/how-to-apply-for-grant.html>

## New Life Croydon

*Mark Russell, Elder, New Life Croydon*



.....

As close neighbours of the Minster, it's a privilege and honour to share a little about our church and the work we do in our local community.

New Life began as a small prayer meeting towards the end of the Second World War and became Full Gospel Church Croydon in the early 1950s. We've always been a Pentecostal church and our first dedicated building was in Church Road, also close to the Minster. Throughout the 1960s to the mid-'80s the church was based in Dennett Road, West Croydon, where it continued to grow.

After a long search, and with a lot of prayer, we were able to move into our present building in Cairo New Road in 1987 (*shown on following page*). At the time many people were surprised at the idea of a church taking over a disused factory. Over the years we have developed and adapted the building and our facilities to create a flexible space both for church services and for the many other activities and ministries we are involved in.

Our church is quite unusual in that it is led by a group of elders, supported by a staff team and an army of volunteers. I've been part of New Life since I was nine,

and became an employed youth worker in 1990 and then shortly afterwards one of the employed elders. Part of my role as an elder is to help build good relationships with other local churches in Croydon, so it's been great to get to know Father Andrew.

Our church now numbers over 1200 adults and children from many different backgrounds and ethnicities, for which we give thanks to God. Like many churches we found the Covid years tough but were able to adapt and take our services online, but it's been a delight to see people returning to the building and the church growing.

When we first moved into our building, we believe God gave us a verse from Acts 18:10, 'I have many people in this city.' We believe that there are many people in Croydon who need to be reached with the good news of Jesus. With this in mind, we have always sought to have a strong focus on our local community. For many years we have run an Ofsted registered pre-school and we have many programmes and activities for children and young people as well as activities for retired people too. In more recent years, as a response to the rising issue of



personal debt, we have partnered with Christians Against Poverty to run a debt centre, where those in serious debt receive professional support to help them get out of debt as well as pastoral care and support in a challenging time. Although we run and finance this centre out of New Life, we very much see that we are doing it on behalf of the wider church in Croydon, and we encourage other churches to encourage people needing debt support to make use of the service. We're also partnering with the residents of the nearby Tamworth Estate to show God's love in practical ways. We've done a number of community rubbish clear-ups and also work with our local police to conduct weapons sweeps looking for knives which may have been hidden.

We also believe that God gave us a very adaptable meeting space so that we could also use it to bless and help the wider church in Croydon. We regularly host 'Transform Croydon' prayer meetings for all the churches and host termly church leader breakfasts for Croydon Churches Forum.

Last year was an interesting year for New Life. We saw many good things happen in the church but also faced some huge challenges. You will all be aware of the tragic murder in September of 15-year-old Elianne Andam as she was on her way to school. Elianne grew up at New Life and her family are part of our church. This obviously had a big impact, especially on her church friends and others who knew the family. We hosted the funeral for Elianne and continue to provide pastoral support to the family.

Our churches may be different in terms of the type of building and our worship style but we deeply appreciate the Minster, its leaders, congregation and all that it does for Croydon. We were especially grateful for the practical support and prayers of Father Andrew around the time of Elianne's funeral. It's also been a joy to get to know Father Andrew and other leaders at various clergy get-togethers and we look forward to working together more closely in the future.

On behalf of everyone at New Life we pray God's richest blessing on the Minster!

# Fairfield Safer Neighbourhood Team

*Police Sergeant Phil Sheehan*

.....  
I am pleased to write this article to explain how police work more closely with our communities to make them safer.

Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs) were introduced by the Metropolitan Police in 2004. The police and partner agencies work together with local communities to identify and tackle issues of concern such as tackling anti-social behaviour, graffiti, disorder or other quality-of-life issues. Each SNT has its own safer neighbourhood panel, made up of residents, community volunteers and local businesses. The SNT panel meets on a regular basis to agree a priority list of local community safety concerns and issues for the team to focus on. Panel members are also involved in deciding what type of action should be taken and contributing to the problem-solving approach.

On Fairfield SNT I supervise four Police Constables and four Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) thanks to the uplift as part of the Commissioners' vision of the 'Strongest ever neighbourhoods'. I am delighted to say some of my new recruits are local residents and are looking forward to being visible and meeting as many residents as we can.

As police we encounter many people when they are not at their best and in need of support, whether it be due to substance abuse or mental health challenges or finding themselves in difficult circumstances. Croydon town centre has a lot of vulnerable people and police are one of the various agencies trying to find the best solution.

Officers have to make fast time decisions on what to do and how best to help. This is particularly challenging as there is a lot of scrutiny through hindsight and the majority of officers on the frontline are fairly new to the service.

Some of the activities my team undertakes are below and it can be seen they are varied and require different qualities to treat each circumstance with the perspective and care they deserve.

- When residents have been burgled we conduct reassurance visits to offer advice on crime prevention measures.
- We conduct visits to check on prolific offenders and their conditions.
- We attend residents' meetings for accommodation belonging to various associations and charities.
- We attend mental health assessments to support medical professionals. We investigate all reports of ASB and work on long term problem solving in conjunction with partners such as Croydon Council.
- We also are responsible for youth engagement and work with Croydon College and schools to help students feel safer on their journeys.
- We work with Croydon BID to support local businesses and target criminals who are causing misery on a daily basis. We conduct regular patrols and ban these offenders through Community Protection Notices. We are working towards obtaining Criminal Behaviour Orders through the courts.

We work closely with the town centre teams and other units such as safer transport and proactive tasking teams to address the issues blighting our neighbourhood. As a Croydon resident myself I am passionate about playing our part to make the area safer and bringing offenders to justice.

**“Community crime-fighting is how we cut crime, rebuild trust and restore our bond with communities.”** Sir Mark Rowley – Met Commissioner

Our aim is to put neighbourhood and local policing back at the top of the Met's agenda and deliver neighbourhood policing that is visible, proactive, trusted and equipped to cut crime and solve policing problems that matter to communities, together with those communities. Public trust and confidence in the Met is very low in some communities. Neighbourhood teams are often the constant and familiar presence of the police and respond to the endemic problems that prevent



residents from enjoying their area and making it a nice place to live, work and relax. They are a critical part of the community.

Effective neighbourhood policing is critical to the Met's success in fighting all crime types, including organised crime, anti-social behaviour and serious violence, to rebuild trust and confidence in the service we provide. So-called 'volume' crime can cause misery for those who experience it and we want to assure residents that this remains a key focus area for the Met.

We can be contacted on [FairfieldSNT@Met.Police.uk](mailto:FairfieldSNT@Met.Police.uk)

If not a Fairfield resident you can put your postcode in on [www.Met.Police.uk](http://www.Met.Police.uk) and it will give you the SNT ward and contact details.

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# The Legacy of Archbishop John Whitgift

*David Bulbeck*

.....

John Whitgift (1530–1604) was the Archbishop of Canterbury in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, over 400 years ago. For 500 years the Archbishops were also lords of the manor of Croydon, with a manor house or palace next to Croydon Parish Church. Archbishop Whitgift was said to have enjoyed his time at his residence in Croydon, enjoying the beauty of the Wandle, the parkland, woods and vineyards, away from his duties at Lambeth Palace.



He had a care for the elderly and the young and wished to leave a legacy in his lifetime. He conceived his hospital as a home for the elderly poor, and with an adjoining school in George Street for the education of twelve local children. Originally 30 or so people would have been

accommodated in single rooms, but in 1983, modernisation reduced the number of residents to 16 in individual flats.

John Whitgift laid the foundation stone of his hospital (now known as the Whitgift Almshouses) on 22nd March 1596, and the hospital and original school in George Street opened two and a half years later.

Archbishop Whitgift was associated with Cambridge, and the building resembles that of a Cambridge College. The building also contains a Chapel and common room, previously known as the dining hall or great hall. One side of the building contains offices of the Whitgift Foundation and the Audience Chamber where

John Whitgift would have dealt with local dignitaries, merchants etc. The Chamber contains many historical items, including the letter from Queen Elizabeth I giving John Whitgift permission to build his hospital.

Over the gateway is the motto 'QUI DAT PAUPERI NON INDIGEBIT', which translates as 'He who giveth to the poor shall not lack' (Proverbs 28:27). On the iron gate can be seen Whitgift's coat of arms and the motto 'VINCIT QUI PATITUR', which means 'He conquers who endures'.

Whitgift School later moved to larger premises in North End, and moved to its current site in Haling Park in 1931. Trinity School of John Whitgift then occupied the site prior to the move to its current site in Shirley in 1965.

The Founder's Day service falls each year on 22nd March and pays tribute to the life and work of Archbishop John Whitgift. It is attended by representatives of the Foundation schools, the care homes and the Carers Information Service.

Last year saw the revival of an old tradition whereby pupils were given a white flower to wear. In years past each boy was presented with a buttonhole white flower or 'white gift', reflecting the pun of Queen Elizabeth I on the founder's name. At the end of the service the boys would file out of the service past the founder's tomb casting their flowers at the foot of it. We are all now invited to wear the white flower buttonhole but avoid throwing them down at the tomb! And as Whitgift headmaster Chris Ramsey remarked, some traditions are worth preserving. Whitgift pupils had also for years paraded from school to the church, but this became a hindrance to traffic in the 1960s and was discontinued.

It had been the custom of each Archbishop of Canterbury, shortly after his installation, to preach on Founder's Day, and this was last observed by Dr Carey in 1994.



Queen Elizabeth I would often dine with Archbishop Whitgift at Lambeth Palace, and he would subsequently 'pass the honour' by dining with his 'poor brothers and sisters' at his hospital where it was recorded, '...you may believe there was joy at the table.' The tradition continues with a meal for residents and pupils following the service. This year we also marked John Whitgift's birthday on 29th February.

Following John Whitgift's death in 1604 an ambassador from France, Boyce Sisi, enquired what works Whitgift had published. He was informed that he had only published certain books in defence of the ecclesiastical government, but when it was incidentally mentioned that Whitgift had founded his hospital and school, the ambassador replied, 'Truly a hospital to sustain the poor and a school to train up youth are the worthiest books that an Archbishop could set forth.'

John Whitgift's legacy continues in the schools, sheltered housing and nursing homes of the Whitgift Foundation, plus the Carers Information Centre which provides advice to carers across the borough. Further details can be found here: <https://johnwhitgiftfoundation.org/>

## Minster Records

### R.I.P.

Philip Blanshard, Rosemary McLusky, Frances Menges,  
Andrew Sharp, Christopher Clementi, Myra Frank, Geraldine Baxter,  
Revd Peter Hammond, Peter Crosby, William Yates, Joyce Munford,  
Mary Byrne, Brid Molloy, Claire Seymour, Dr Barbara Levick,  
Colin Bennett, Rosemary Howard, Angie, John Timbury,  
Roger Cady, Roy Wales, John Cowdery

# 'Our pew at church'

*David Morgan*

.....

In recent years, many people around the world have seen the inside of Croydon Minster thanks to the wonders of the live television broadcast of Midnight Mass on the BBC in 2019.

A less well known way in which the interior of the old Croydon Parish Church was seen by thousands and possibly millions was in a book, namely *David Copperfield*, one of Charles Dickens' iconic novels.

Dickens, who originally wrote under the nom-de-plume of Boz, had an illustrator who signed his work Phiz. He thought that Phiz would go well with Boz! The illustrator's real name was Hablot Browne, a name which can be found in the registers of the church.

Hablot and his wife Suzannah brought five of their children to be baptised here in the 1840s. Variousy described in the registers as a gent, a painter and an artist, Hablot Browne produced illustrations for ten of Dickens' novels.

Browne first met Dickens in 1838 and they became good friends. The two even travelled up to Yorkshire and Lancashire together looking for suitable places where they could base the story of *Nicholas Nickleby*.

It is, though, the illustration in *David Copperfield* which most interests us. It was Hablot Browne's son Edgar, writing in his own memoir, who provided this piece of vital evidence about our church. Edgar's memoir was an interesting book as he described how the family had moved to Thornton Heath, then a village in the countryside, for the sake of his mother's health. Young Edgar remembered going up to London in a pony and trap and leaving it in a livery stable while they crossed

over Southwark Bridge and into town. Later the family would ride up to London Bridge Station on the Croydon Atmospheric Railway.

Edgar's father would work from a studio in their Thornton Heath home with a constant supply of engraving plates arriving by special courier. As part of his work to illustrate the *David Copperfield* story he worked on a picture of a church. Edgar wrote, 'it is an excellent impression of a general view of Croydon Church.'



Whilst Hablot Browne was in the building when his children were being baptised, he was using his observation skills and artistic eye to hold that image in his mind, ready to use when needed. The drawing showed one of his particular skills in combining people with architecture. The stone walls of the church are crammed with memorials, the

pews are packed with churchgoers, mingling the dead and the living. Entitled 'Our pew at church', the features of the church before the 1867 fire can clearly be seen; the pulpit, the mix of popular and boxed pews, the gallery.

The memorials, which were all lost in the fire, were recorded in sketches but Phiz seemed to have constructed them rather generally, rather than anything specific which can be identified. It would be fascinating to understand more of the medieval knight tomb at the bottom of the illustration.

If anyone is able to help more with understanding the illustration, do let me know. In the meantime tell your friends that the old Croydon Parish Church is illustrated in *David Copperfield*.



*Our Pew at Church*

Steel engraving, 1849; scanned by Philip Allingham for The Victorian Web,  
<https://victorianweb.org/art/illustration/phiz/dc/3.html>



## Getting to know...

# Rodney Vaughn

*Tiffany Willmer*

.....

Having always assumed that Rodney was either Canadian or an east coast American, I was surprised to learn that he was in fact born in the small town of Sidney, Nebraska, where wild west legends such as Calamity Jane, Buffalo Bill, Butch Cassidy and Bill Hickok once roamed the streets. In fact, Rodney's

paternal grandparents travelled from Missouri to a homestead in Nebraska around 1900 in a covered wagon.

Rodney's own parents were not farmers, his father instead running a wholesale auto parts company. Both he and Rodney's mother were quite strict Methodists, which meant church was a big focus of life for Rodney and his much younger brother Ellis.

Rodney's main interest from quite an early age was music. He was fascinated by the organ at church and started learning the piano at a young age, taking up the organ itself some five or six years later. He also played the oboe.

When it came to Higher Education, Rodney opted to do a Bachelor's degree in music, with organ as his main subject. He studied at the Boulder campus of the University of Colorado and found the relatively liberal atmosphere there a refreshing change from his small-town upbringing.

To help finance his way through college, Rodney worked as director of music at an Episcopalian church and decided to leave Methodism behind and become an



Episcopalian himself during his student years. This had the unfortunate side effect of upsetting both his parents very much.

After finishing his undergraduate studies, Rodney won a scholarship to spend a year studying at the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM), which at the time was based in Addington Palace in Croydon. He enjoyed living at the palace apart from the feeling of being cold virtually the whole time, as the radiators never really warmed up properly!

During this year, Rodney met former Minster/Croydon Parish Church (CPC) organist and composer-in-residence Martin How; had organ improvisation lessons with another CPC organist, Michael Fleming; and most importantly of all, met his future wife, Pam. Pam was actually a student at the Royal College of Music at the time but sang in one of the RSCM choirs on a night when female voices replaced the boy choristers.

At the end of his year in Croydon, Rodney was rather uncertain about what direction his career should take and opted to go to the University of Northern Colorado to do a one-year Master's degree in music. Midway through his studies, he and Pam decided to get married, with Pam agreeing to come and live in the States at least for part of their married life.

Rodney's first job after completing his Master's was as a teacher of music theory, piano and organ at a private college in Columbia, Missouri. Pam got a job as organist for a local church and before long the couple's two daughters Margaret and Penelope (usually known as Penny) were born.

After just under a decade of teaching music, Rodney became Dean of Extended Studies for the same college, a more administrative job, which involved lots of enjoyable travel to its satellite sites in places like San Francisco, Washington DC and Puerto Rico.

One year later Rodney and Pam decided to make an even bigger change by moving to the UK, arriving in November 1978. This was quite a big risk to take, as the family had nowhere of their own to live in the UK and Rodney had no job. For ten months, the family stayed with Pam's mother in Middlesbrough, while Rodney initially did temping for Alfred Marks in a freezing hut on the docks of Middlesbrough with no toilet facilities.

After a while, Rodney got a better position running the Broadwood piano showroom in the West End and eventually he and Pam found a house of their own in Forestdale. It was here that their son Jonathan was born. Pam taught piano for many years at Royal Russell School, while Rodney continued to work for other piano companies, including running the piano tuning department for Blüthner pianos for a decade before his retirement in 2010.

Jonathan turned out to be an extremely musical child and it was in fact through him that Rodney was drawn into the orbit of what was then still Croydon Parish Church. Having started out as a young pianist and RSCM chorister under Martin How, Jonathan took up the organ aged 11 and just two years later was good enough to be asked by Martin to play the organ for CPC's Sunday services in the summer holidays.

Jonathan went on to pass his Fellowship exam for the Royal College of Organists aged just 16, became an organ scholar at both St George's Chapel, Windsor and St John's College, Cambridge, and has enjoyed an impressive career as a professional organist ever since. Jonathan's eldest sister, Margaret, is also a professional musician and plays co-principal double bass in the Düsseldorf Symphony Orchestra. His other sister, Penny, lives in Thames Ditton where she is really not very interested in music at all but does a lot of volunteer work.

Since 2011, Rodney has given a lot of his time to volunteering at Croydon University Hospital, where he chats to patients, brings them drinks and

sandwiches and has even been known to clean trolleys and make beds from time to time. He also enjoys gardening and baking his own sourdough bread.

Over the years Rodney has been involved in several church activities at Croydon Parish Church/Croydon Minster. He served on the PCC and the Friends of the Choir committee, was a chalice bearer, and was a member of the Magazine committee for nearly 30 years. He was also one of a small group of people who were trained by Jon Blanchard to give tours of the church. In the distant past when he was in practice he actually deputised as organist on a couple of occasions when there was no one else available.

.....



The flyer is rectangular with a light grey background. It features decorative leafy branches in the top-left and bottom-right corners. The text is centered and uses a mix of serif and sans-serif fonts. The title 'Professional Foot Care' is in a large, elegant script font. Below it, 'BY TANIA MARIE' is in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font. The professional credentials 'REGISTERED FOOT HEALTH PRACTITIONER SAC DIP' are in a small, all-caps, sans-serif font. A horizontal line separates the title from the list of services. The services are listed in a medium-sized, all-caps, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the text 'HOME VISITS | FULLY INSURED' is in a small, all-caps, sans-serif font.

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